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Future Trends Remain Unclear

Political Shakeup in China Surprised the CIA, Bush Says

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The political shakeup in China, in which a relative unknown, Hua Guofeng, became acting prime minister took the U.S. intelligence community completely by surprise, CIA Director George Bush said today.

Bush, who was U.S. envoy in Peking prior to his selection to head the CIA, said he does not even know Hua.

Asked at a breakfast meeting with a group of reporters whether the CIA predicted the shift, which downgraded President Ford's Peking host, Teng Hsiao-ping, Bush said, "There was a major surprise factor in those developments."

Bush added that it is not yet clear what future developments will bring in China.

ON OTHER topics, Bush conceded there is nothing in President Ford's intelligence reforms that would prevent a future Watergate scandal.

"That is a question of trust," Bush said. "I don't think someone can draw legislation in a way to make sure that these things won't happen."

Bush conceded that Ford's new restrictions on present and former government employees and employees of government contractors to prevent disclosure of classified information might make it more difficult for the public to learn of Watergate-type

STATes.

But he insisted that Ford's plan to strengthen the CIA's inspector general would give an employee "some place to go to blow the whistle" on abuses.

BUSH SAID HE is determined to prevent as much as possible disclosure of classified information.

He said he would attempt to obtain a court order to prevent publication of secrets in newspapers or magazines if he learned of the disclosure prior to the publication time.

The executive order Ford issued yesterday authorizes injunctions against government employees, former employees or employees of contractors disclosing classified material. But it does not authorize injunctions directly against publications.

Bush said his new job places him in an "adversary relationship" with the press concerning information about classified material.

Bush said that Ford's reorganization plans provide no new guidelines to govern CIA efforts to manipulate the governments of other nations.

"I don't think you need special written guidelines for covert activity," he said.

HE ADDED that there were no secret restrictions on CIA efforts to manipulate politics overseas except for a prohibition on efforts to assassinate foreign leaders.

Covert activity, which can run the gamut from secret wars to bribery of politicians, will be approved on an "ad hoc" basis by the new Cabinet-level special operations group created by Ford's executive order.

Bush repeatedly refused to be drawn into the debate over the sort of committee Congress should establish to supervise intelligence activities.

He indicated he personally favors Ford's proposal for a joint Senate-House committee to reduce the number of congressmen who must be informed. But Bush said he could "work with whatever the Congress sets up."

The intelligence committees of both the Senate and House have each recommended individual committees for each house.

THE EXECUTIVE order Ford issued yesterday authorizes Bush to expand the scope of a secrecy oath which all employees of the government, and its contractors will be required to sign in order to obtain access to classified material.

Bush said he plans to seek legal advice on the exercise of that authority, but he indicated he expect-

panding the coverage of the oath from information relating to intelligence sources and methods to all classified information.

"I disapprove of the idea that a government employee can divulge classified information," Bush said.

Under the terms of the order, if an employee discloses classified information in violation of his agreement to keep it secret, he would be subject to a civil court action filed by the Justice Department and to discipline from his department or agency.

THE PENALTIES probably would be less severe than the five years in prison Ford is proposing in legislation to make it a crime to reveal intelligence sources and methods.

But the criminal statute requires action by Congress, and approval is far from certain. Ford was able to impose the secrecy pledge under his own authority.

In the words of the executive order: "In order to improve the protection of sources and methods of intelligence, all members of the executive branch and its contractors given access to information containing sources or methods of intelligence shall, as a condition of obtaining access, sign an agreement that they will not disclose that information to persons not authorized to receive it."

The order authorizes the attorney general to obtain an injunction prohibiting unauthorized disclosure if he learns in advance of an impending leak.

The government obtained just such an order against former CIA official Victor Marchetti, prohibiting him from publishing his "CIA and the Cult of Intelli-

gence" without official censorship. The book was published with gaps marking the passages that had been removed. It was the first time a book was censored officially before publication in this country.

The courts upheld the injunction against Marchetti on the grounds that he had relinquished his 1st Amendment rights voluntarily by signing the CIA's secrecy contract.

CRITICS OF the classification system often complain that the "secret" stamp can be used to cover up errors of judgment or illegal activities. If Bush chooses to include all classified material in the secrecy pledge, employees could be stopped from revealing waste, inefficiency and illegality as well as other secrets.

The proposed legislation Ford sent to Congress would make it a crime, punishable by a fine of up to \$5,000 or five years in prison or both, to reveal secret intelligence sources or methods.